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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

April 13, 2009

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:35 A.M.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, John Irwin, Richard Johnson, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, and Ralph Sims.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Louise Stilwill, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Louise Stilwill, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak and Martha Bloomfield.

Guests Present: None

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the March 2009 Board meeting; motion passed.

President's Report

President Spaniola reported that he had been in contact with the new Collette Travel representative, Ed McKinna. It was reported that the price for the upcoming Friends' sponsored trip has come down. It also was reported that the travel brochure was sent out via email and U.S. Mail. President Spaniola also reported that he had sent out an email from Representative Mike Huckleberry regarding House Bill 4252, the License plate bill (see attachment) and encouraged people to consider supporting this issue. President Spaniola stated that he had received a letter from Lt. Governor Cherry who acknowledged the Friends' concern about the future welfare of the Michigan Historical Center. Finally, President Spaniola indicated that he had received an invitation to attend and make a presentation to the Northwest High School Choir on May 6, 2009 in Jackson, Michigan. This is the choir that sang at the November 2008 Friends Veterans' Day program. He noted that the date for this is the same date as the planned Legislative Reception; however, he felt that both events could be attended. He asked Paul Tarr to accompany him to Jackson.

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Treasurer Report

BALANCE	03-01-09	8,262.20
DEPOSITS		
3-05-09	1,354.20	
3-10-09 `Service Charge	+5.00	<u>1,359.20</u>
TOTAL		9,621.40
Cashed Checks		
1425 D. Berch	175.00	
1434 Eng. Graphics	630.00	
1435 Walker Tavern	126.40	
1436 Surety Bond	<u>100.00</u>	
Total	1,031.40	-1,031.40
BALANCE	03-31-09	8,590.00
Benevolent Fund	50.00	

A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted, the Treasurer's report for the period March 1 – March 31, 2009; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No Bills presented.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak indicated that there was nothing new to report in terms of eventual fate of the Michigan Historical Center and its professional programs. He did state that there have been several people who have since left the Department of History, Arts, and Library (HAL) given that their position was be slated to be cut with the proposed elimination of the HAL administrative staff. He noted that acting HAL Director, Mark Hoffman, was persevering in his efforts to keep things going despite that fact that his job also is slated to be eliminated. Chris indicated that plans were still on track for the Museum's annual Be a Tourist in Your Own City program and it 20th year celebration of existence of the Museum complex. Martha Bloomfield noted the continued success of the Music at the Museum program. There also was a brief discussion of Michigan State University's decision to eliminate its Music Therapy Program, which is a program that has been around since 1940s.

Funding support from the Friends of Michigan History was requested for the following programs sponsored by the Michigan Historical Museum:

Be a Tourist/Museum 20 th Anniversary (June 30)	700.00
Summer Sizzles Day Camp (June-Aug.) Printing/Promotion	1,000.00

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Harvest Fest (October 3) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	700.00
Archaeology Day (October) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Haunted History (October 25) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	700.00
Docent Programming Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
WinterFest 2009 (December) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Statehood Day (January 23, 2010) Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Scout Programs/Camp Ins/Weekend Programs Presenters, Supplies, Promotion	1,000.00
Community Outreach/SPECIAL POPULATION Groups (Advent House And homeless veterans) and Music Program Support -Support for light refreshments for classroom Programs and participants in the MSU School of Music "music at the museum Series)	500.00
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TOTAL	\$8,600.00

A motion was made and seconded to support the Museum's 10 projects funding request for a total amount not to exceed \$8,600; motion passed.

Committee Reports

A. 2009 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs): No report. There as a discussion that the Friends begin to ensure that its programs be videotaped and that copies of the video tape be made available to both the state and national Archives.

B. Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair). No report.

C. Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott). No report.

D. Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair). No report.

E. Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair). No report.

F. Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs). It was indicated that the committee was still in need of material for the newsletter.

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G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. This was discussed in the President's Report.

H. *Calendar (2010) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moye, Co-chairs)*. No report.

I. *Legislative Reception Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)* – Paul Tarr reported that the Friends, Michigan History Foundation, and Michigan Historical Commission Legislative Reception was set for May 6, 2009 from 4 to 7 PM at the Museum. Letters of Invitation have been developed and are scheduled to be sent yet this week. In terms of the program, there will be brief remarks from the three organizational heads. The Museum and the Archives will be opened and light refreshments will be served. It is anticipated that about a week before the event, each Board Director from all three organizations will be given a list of Legislators to call and remind them of the reception.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. This issue was discussed in the President's Report and informational material from Representative Mike Huckelberry is attached to these minutes.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

C. *Archives*. No report.

D. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

A. *Civil War Sesquicentennial*. An ad hoc committee was created to develop a position statement on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission proposed plan for the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial celebration and commemoration. The committee is composed of Keith Harrison, Ralph Sims, Tom Truscott, and Bus Spaniola. Chris Dancisak also is on the committees as an advisor.

B. *Charitable License Issue*. Secretary Harrison brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Attorney General's Office dated February 17, 2009 informing the Friends of its State Charitable License expired status since July 31, 1997!!

A motion was made and seconded authorizing the Board Secretary to contact Mr. Nick Bozen to seek advice in this matter and to proceed accordingly; motion passed.

C. *June 13th Celebration*. Ralph Sims indicating that the Friends should set up its display at the upcoming June 13, 2009 June 13th Celebration. Ralph indicated that the registration fee would be waived for the Friends. It was indicated that the Board should not seek this waiver and requested that we obtain the registration form and bring the issue back to the May meeting for action.

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D. *Needed Bylaw Revision.* An ad hoc bylaw committee was created to come up with amendment language to established term limits for Board of Directors and for Board Officers. The Committee is composed of Paul Tarr, Larry Griffin, Richard Johnson, and Tom Truscott. The committee was requested to develop the language in time for the May meeting.

E. Resignation Acknowledgment of Board Member.

In keeping with Article II, Section 2.3 REMOVAL, which states: ... The unexcused absences of a director from three consecutive meetings of the Board may be deemed a resignation if so declared by majority vote of the Board, a motion was made and seconded to acknowledge the resignation of Board of Director David H. Brickey, who has missed more the two years of consecutive meetings; motion passed.

A letter will be sent to Mr. Brickey from President Spaniola. Mr. Brickey's name will be removed from the Board of Director's membership list and from all letterhead.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2009, in Lansing.

Attachment: Email from Representative Mike Huckleberry

From: Rep. Mike Huckleberry (District 70) <Dist070@house.mi.gov>

Subject: **As the State Budget squeeze gets tighter in these tough economic times, a number of "quality of life" efforts will be severely threatened.**

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2009, 2:52 PM

As the State Budget squeeze gets tighter in these tough economic times, a number of "quality of life" efforts will be severely threatened.

The History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) department of State Government may be the first casualty of the 2010 Michigan budget battle. Governor Jennifer Granholm has proposed a restructuring of state government that could eliminate HAL as a stand-alone department. While I can appreciate the tough choices we'll need to make in balancing revenues with necessary services, I'm concerned that breaking up the small "quality of life" portion of state government will remove its collective support network.

We must unite our citizens' efforts to protect those state services they most value. This helps the Legislators focus on making choices that help our communities with what limited resources we have.

To that end, I have submitted a bill (HB4352) that would allow Michigan history buffs to demonstrate their support of the state's Historical Museum and the many local history programs and museums throughout the state. (The bill has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.)

HB 4352 would allow Michigan drivers to purchase license plates with a "history" designation. This is similar to the special cause plates which are designated for several state universities, lighthouse preservation, wildlife habitat and veterans.

Proceeds from this voluntary license plate designation would be split as follows: 30% to the Michigan Historical Museum operations; 20% for funding publications, archival activities and non-federal preservation programs by the Michigan Historical Center; 40% to local grant programs for non-state museums and societies; and 10% for development and grant administration by the Michigan Historical Center.

Certainly this license plate program cannot totally replace the state's current funding of the Historical Museum but it can help in two ways. First, it will provide some new revenues (especially to local museums); but second, and perhaps most importantly, it will encourage the thousands of history society and museum members statewide to show their support of these important programs.

I am pleased that my fellow Legislators are rallying around the HAL services. Rep. George Cushingberry has noted how many of our Michigan icon businesses have had to cut back on their generous support of cultural activities as well. Rep. Roy Schmidt has been lobbying to maintain funding of the arts.

Together, we hope that we can keep our state service and funding levels to history, the arts and libraries strong enough to carry on these important community activities.

History buffs around the state can help by writing/calling the Chair of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Pam Byrnes, to ask her to move HB 4352 through her committee. (Rep. Pam Byrnes, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 488909; toll free 1-800 645-1581) They can also call Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land (toll free 1-888-SOS-MICH, or 517-373-4422; Michigan Department of State, P.O. Box 30045, Lansing, MI 48918).

On a personal note, I'd like to credit former State Rep. Francis "Bus" Spaniola for the idea on this bill. Bus is a devoted Michigan history buff and serves as President of the Friends of Michigan History. His group is also lobbying hard to maintain our state's support of history programs and other culturally important services. We can all learn from Bus that citizen activism does make a difference!